SIL. Dead, sir.

SEAL. Dead!—See, see!—he drew a good bow:—And dead!—he shot a fine shoot:—John of Gaunt loved him well, and betted much money on his head. Dead!—he would have clapped i' the clout[9] at twelve score *: and carried you a forehand shaft a fourteen and fourteen and a half[2], that it would have done a man's heart good to see.---------- How a score of ewes now?

9 — clapped i' the clout —] i. e, hit the white mark. WARBURTON.

So, in King Lear: "O, well flown, bird!—i' the clout, i' the clout^ STEEVENS.

i —at twelve score:] i. e. of yards. So, in Drayton's Poly-olbion, 1612:

" At markes full fortie *score* they us'd to prick and rove."

MALONE.

This mode of expression, certainly in this instance, and I believe in general, means *yards:* but the line from Drayton makes this opinion doubtful, or shows the extreme inaccuracy of the poet, for no man was ever capable of shooting an arrow forty score *yards*. DOUCE.

* — fourteen, and fourteen and a half.] That is, fourteen score of yards. JOHNSON.

Twelve score appears, however, from a passage in Churchyard's Charitie, 1595, to have been no shot of an extraordinary length:

" They hit the white that never shot before,
" No marke-men sure, nay bunglers in their kind,
" A sort of swads *that scarce can shoot twelve score.*"

STEEVENS.

The utmost distance that the archers of ancient times reached, is supposed to have been about three hundred yards. Old Double therefore certainly drew a good bow. MALONE.

Shakspeare probably knew what he was about when he spoke of archery, which in his time was practised by every one. He is describing Double as a very excellent archer, and there is no inconsistency in making such a one shoot fourteen score and a half: but it must be allowed that none but a most extraordinary archer would be able to *hit a mark* at twelve score. Some allowance, however, should be made when the speaker is considered. DOUCE.

The long field (I believe at Finsbury) is 16 score yards. A

Mr. Bates once shot an arrow near 30 vards bevond the bound of it, which was 18 score. Mr. John Rowston. of Manchester, has often shot IS score. Miss BANKS.